

life with great love and devotion to his family and his service has made our community a better place for all residents.

RECOGNITION OF WILLIE WATSON
FOR HIS SERVICE TO COUNTRY
AND COMMUNITY

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie Watson who is a great community member, a proud father, and a patriot. In our country's time of need, Mr. Watson bravely and fearlessly enlisted to serve in the military and became a member of one of the most inspiring and decorated Air Force squadrons of our time, the Tuskegee Airmen. Despite racism and bigotry in the country, Mr. Watson and his fellow airmen selflessly devoted themselves to fight for our nation.

Mr. Watson served as a Service Master for over twenty years. During WWII, Mr. Watson was sent into battle for one of the most harrowing and brave missions: to life-flight wounded soldiers off the battlefield. He performed these duties faithfully and honorably and after 20 years of work, retired from service.

As a young man, Mr. Watson and his fellow airmen became America's first African-American military airmen. These brave young men enlisted or joined from all over the country and trained to become fighter pilots, mechanics, engineers, intelligence analysts, and parachute riggers, among many other specialties. From 1941 to 1946, nearly 1,000 pilots graduated from the Tuskegee Air Force School, and four hundred fifty of them served overseas. These fighters had many accomplishments including flying over 15,000 sorties into enemy territory, accomplishing a nearly perfect record for not losing U.S. bombers, and destroying 112 German airplanes.

These men not only faced a war abroad, but also challenges at home because of segregation and racism. Their struggle eventually contributed to the desegregation of American society and their patriotism was rewarded with several honors, most notably on March 27, 2007, when the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On September 23, 2010, a ceremony will be held to honor Mr. Watson's incredible life. His dedication and service inspired a generation, and I am proud to recognize Willie Watson, whose service to our country in its time of need will never be forgotten.

HONORING MARINE 1ST LT. SCOTT
FLEMING

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of 1st Marine Lt. Scott Fleming who gave his life September 17, 2010, while supporting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. His unit was conducting pre-election security operations when he was struck by enemy small arms fire.

Scott Fleming was a sophomore at Blessed Trinity High School in Roswell, GA on September 11, 2001. It was those attacks that led him to the decision to join the Marines. He began his training just two weeks after graduating from LaGrange College with a degree in Education.

1st LT. Fleming will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. He is survived by his father, Joseph and mother, Joanne; wife, Brandi; and sister, Andrea.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that we honor 1st Lt. Fleming's sacrifice on behalf of our nation. He is a hero to his countrymen, his family, and his fellow Marines. He reminds us that America is blessed to have so many young men and women willing to stand up and fight to preserve our precious freedoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and all our military families, whose selfless dedication to this Nation is an inspiration to us all.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY RE-
MARKS BY LTG ROBERT L.
CASLEN, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on August 15, 2010, LTG Robert L. Caslen, Jr. spoke at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, Missouri, regarding Military Appreciation Day. His remarks are set forth below.

MISSOURI STATE FAIR—MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY—LTG ROBERT L. CASLEN, JR.—MISSOURI STATE FAIRGROUNDS, SEDALIA, MO—15 AUGUST 2010

Good afternoon. Thank you for that kind introduction. It is always great to visit the Show-Me State and Sedalia. It gives me an excuse to stop by the "Wheel Drive-in" and get myself a "Goober Burger". I want to thank Governor Nixon and Congressman Skelton for their inspiring words and presence here today as we honor our Military Heroes past and present. I am truly honored and humbled to be asked to speak with you today on such a momentous occasion for our Nation's military.

One of our Nation's defining Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, once said, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and . . . dare to do our duty as we understand it."

These words epitomize our military's ethical charter, extended to us by the American people, and defined by the ideals and precepts of our Constitution. As we enter our 9th year of continuous war, our Nation faces an uncertain future—a future that will most certainly require the service and continued sacrifice of our Nation's military men and women. As our Nation and its military embark into this uncertain future, we must ever be mindful of President Lincoln's words—to solemnly do our moral duty and earnestly hope that 'right makes might'.

As Americans, we are a people defined by our moral character. Indeed, many of our forefathers came here in order to flee religious persecution in their native lands. These immigrants, from the Pilgrims to the Quakers to the Mennonites, boldly forged out new lives for themselves in the frontiers of America. Many of Missouri's early pioneers were just such people.

Our forefathers' hard work, perseverance and strong moral ethic helped shape our

country's beginnings and define our Nation's character. Our Founding Fathers were in many cases, men such as these—men of substance—whose character was born out of sacrifice and moral conviction. They understood and rejected the yoke of oppression—they knew full well the heavy price that must be paid to earn and maintain their freedom. Their vision enabled the creation of a radically new concept in the world—a nation, governed by and subservient to its people, committed to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice for all. The ultimate manifestation of our forefathers' ideals can be seen in the instrument that established the American experiment in freedom: our Nation's Constitution.

The pure genius of the U.S. Constitution still evokes awe in us today. Apart from the freedoms extended to us in its Bill of Rights, the Constitution also serves as the source document from which we derive our military's authorities. The governmental roadmap established by the Constitution clearly delineates the military's subservient role to the people and civilian authority of the military. Indeed, the Constitution establishes a client relationship between the military and the citizens of this Nation. Our client status requires us to maintain a healthy and confidence-inspiring relationship with our bosses. Trust is, and always has been, the cornerstone of this relationship. Said another way, it is incumbent on all of us in uniform to earn your trust and then to maintain it.

We in the Army know all too well the heavy price that must be paid for failing to maintain the trust of the people.

In the aftermath of our Nation's last persistent conflict, Vietnam, our Army faced a crisis of trust. Our relationship with the American people had been strained and as an institution, it required us to become introspective and examine all facets of what defined us ethically as a profession. And as a result, we enacted sweeping internal reforms and reinforced our Professional Military Ethic in our professional military education. But this took time and it was only after many years of demonstrated adherence to our Nation's principles and values that we were able to restore the trust of the American people.

I would offer that the key ingredient that makes this difference is leadership. Leadership grounded in the principles of a Professional Ethic—whose foundation can be found in the ideals and precepts of our Constitution.

Our leaders today at every level of the Army face extraordinarily complex and uncertain situations on a daily basis. Confronted by these unique and taxing circumstances, influenced by character, values, and a collective ethic, our leaders invariably will strive to make the right decisions, and thus preserve the trust we must maintain with the clients whom we serve.

But it is not easy and this has not always been the case. Take Abu Ghraib for example—where we saw a failure of leadership result not only in a loss of confidence, but in the rallying of extremist Islam to join the Jihad. Fortunately this leadership failure was countered by the great work of many other leaders over a number of years.

Our Nation's military is a reflection of you—the people of the United States. Our military is an all volunteer force, comprised of citizens from all walks of life throughout our country. We are a microcosm of our society—where all our country's races, religions, and creeds—equally share in the task of defending our Nation and its Constitution. Consequently, our military's character and ethic is a reflection of your own. We stand for the principles and values that you and